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Dimidium facti qui cœpit habet.-HOR.
Be wise to-day, 'tis madness to defer.-YOUNG.

As our country has been so long in a stationary condition, as to all literary purposes; in an unformed state, midway between barbarism and refinement; and looking steadily towards general wealth, without heeding the welfare of mind; every gleam of hope, however

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transient, is a happy ray amid the surrounding darkness. We are tempted to hail even the solitary efforts of individual industry, as the auspicious heralds of a brighter day, when intellect shall be seated on the throne of error, and prejudice cast her antiquated honors at the feet of philosophy and reason. If to elevate the genius is to mend the heart, he certainly claims the tribute of our praise, the labors of whose life, and the exertions of whose pen, are employed to refine the public taste, forward the advancement of letters, and direct the progress of talent.

Society is mostly composed of a multitude of uneasy beings, who never spend a superfluous minute in thinking of consequences; but consume their days in a restless

dream of tumultuous apprehensions, upon the nature of which no definite limit can be set. Forgetting that national glory has its true foundation in the general improvement of the separate members of the social fabric, these boisterous well-wishers for the common good, in the boundless indulgence of frantic passion, fix their desires upon any but the legitimate object of joy: and would welcome the jarring contests of political commotion, rather than lend an indulgent hand to foster the opening germs of infant genius, and aid the struggling efforts of rising merit. But surely it cannot be considered as an enviable lot, that the clamors of party, or the thunders of war, should be sounding from shore to

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shore, while the voice of science, religion, and truth, should be hushed in the gloom of silence and retirement: that blood should be the object of avarice abroad, and ignorance sway the helm of government at home.

In a land swayed by a government like that under which we live, the influence of the factious multitude is of course carried to a great extent: and as the mob of every community are the ignorant, if their licentiousness is not in some measure restrained by the authority of the wise and the good, the consequences of the indulgence can never be thoroughly determined. The better part, therefore, are by sacred duty bound, to take into their hands the fulfilment of a task, to which

the powers of the lowly vulgar are so evidently unequal: to apply the strength of their hands, and the vigor of their heads, to the maintenance of useful Knowledge; and to prevent the dignity of learning, or the innocence of virtue, from being crushed by opposition, or withered by neglect.

The rancor of animosity which once so completely pervaded our political parties, having subsided for a season from ~~their~~ its accustomed violence; having nothing at present to awaken contention, and enkindle hostility it; it is now the auspicious season to commence the work of reformation. We have slumbered too long on the confines of intellectual death: the period of exertion has arrived,

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and the accusing voice calls us to awake. We have disregarded our statesmen; our poets have perished on the dunghill from whence they sprung; and our systems of education have served but to ridicule the objects for which they were originally framed. While all, then, is tranquil abroad, & all is harmonious within; it is our task, with unanimous consent, to yield the voluntary tribute of our aid, and revive the drooping spirit of literary inquiry; to fill every house with knowledge, and every heart with virtue; and while the nations of the earth acknowledge the fame of our arms, to sound our genius through the shores of the other world,

as the pillar of our glory, & the column of our strength.

If we look at education simply, it must be confessed, that, within a that period, we have experienced a sensible advancement. From what has been done on this head, it will readily be perceived, that all the improvement that has been made, has proceeded, not from any novel discoveries of modern artifice, but from the pursuit of those well-digested plans which trial has found to be true, the fruits of mental labor, and solid reflection. We have been tantalised with the quackeries of instruction, in all their forms: and we seem at length beginning to put

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our trust and confidence in those things, which alone can yield us satisfaction in so important a point.

It is with no small pleasure, that we notice the growing attention of the public mind to the important duty of female instruction. If civilisation, in her march of dominion, leaves any marks of her progress, she is no where so sensibly felt, as when she raises woman from the degradation of crouching servitude, and miserable dependence, and commands the homage of respect which her dignity so triumphantly claims. Accordingly, The clans that infest the forests, and roam on the mountains, seem destitute,

most of all, of that sense of honorable feeling, which would sooth the labors of the female life, administer to its comforts, and diminish its pains. In this unenviable state of nature, the softer portion of the human race, appear destined but to drudge in unpitied servility for the barbarous lords whose mandates they obey; to pine in solitude and neglect, and toil without the recompense of reward.

It is always some time before men come to a proper sense of their duty in this respect, in the infancy of national existence. Through a long succession of years, till a very late

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period, it had been our custom to circumscribe female improvement within extremely narrow limits; and never to transgress by any chance beyond the bounds of absolute necessity. It was imagined quite sufficient, if the knowledge which a young damsel possessed, would enable her to transact the mechanical details of domestic economy, and private life; and mind had no share in the question, nor part in the matter. And yet, with all that vanity can add to the mass of talent which man has been found to display, it will certainly meet with no hesitation, that woman, when rated by the standard of genius,

will balance the scale with her rival competitor.

Now, however, we are giving woman her due: and she maintains the rank of preeminence which the dignity of her genius requires. And, although there are always some minds, so perverted by vice, and so degraded by lust, as to look upon those "whom man was born to please", as but the sources of guilty pleasure, to be sported for a moment in the eagerness of admiration, and then "cast like a loathsome weed away"; yet those whom religion, with innocence on her tongue, and benevolence in her precepts, has directed to the proper estimate

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of character, will consider woman as the ministering angel amid the storms of life, and the charm that enlivens the tranquil privacy of domestic enjoyment. The sigh shall never escape from our lips, for the return of those elder times, when the female hand was only buried in plying the labors of the loom, and arranging the mechanical concerns of internal economy. It ill becomes the man who enjoys the blessings of the present enlightened age, to confine his desires to the condition of that remoter period, when the darkness of mad midnight ruled the subject world, unassisted by knowledge, and unillumined by revelation.

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